Redressal of the problems of income inequalities and regional disparities in new economic policy

44. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which New Economic Policy addresses to the problem of income inequalities and regional disparities;

(b) what specific steps have been proposed in the Eighth Five Year Plan to solve these problems; and

(c) what instruments will now be available with Government to ensure industrialisation of backward areas after delicensing of majority of industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Directional Paper on Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97) addresses, among others, the problems of income inequalities and regional disparities. Some of the relevant proposals contained in the Directional Paper are as under:

(i) Accelerated expansion of employment opportunities with an aim to achieve near full employment by the turn of the century, to alleviate poverty and to utilise effectively the human resources for economic and social development;

(ii) The employment oriented growth strategy comprises of geographical and crop-wise diversified agriculture, waste land development for crop cultivation and forestry, development of rural non-frame sector rural infrastructure, small-scale industries, housing and services and upgradation of technologies of self-employment in the traditional and unorganised sectors;

(iii) Emphasis on literacy and education, public health and drinking water supply particularly in the rural areas to create more equitous socio-economic environment;

(iv) Strategies for the development of agriculture to reduce regional imbalances which would include extension of the benefits of Green Revolution to the Eastern region and other less developed regions and emphasis on dry land farming;

(v) Integrated programme for local areas development for poverty alleviation through increase in employment opportunities, land reforms and meeting the housing needs of the people.

(c) The development of physical infrastructure, particularly in areas of energy, transport, and communication will be the major instrument to promote development of backward areas. This will also help industrialisation of such areas. Public sector will continue to play a dominant role in the development of such infrastructure in the Eight Plan.

People living below poverty line

45. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of people living below poverty line as on 15th June, 1991 and those at present; and

(b) what are the details of progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The latest available data regarding people below poverty line relates to the year 1987-88. The percentage of people living below poverty line in 1983-84 was 37.4, and this reduced to 29.9 in 1987-88.

46. [*Transferred to the 7th May*, 1992]

Drinking water projects in Bihar during Eigth Five Year Plan

47. SHRI S. S. AHLUWAIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earmarked any funds for the drinking water